



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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ANNUAL UPLAND GAME SURVEY BEGINS

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) annual survey of upland game populations will soon be under way with wildlife biologists and conservation officers driving more than 200, 30-mile roadside routes statewide between August 1-15.

The August Roadside Survey, as it is called, "is the DNR's main tool for determining whether our fall populations will be up or down from the previous year," said Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife research biologist for the DNR. Routes start at sunrise on mornings with heavy dew and are driven primarily on gravel roads because of lower traffic volume. A heavy dew causes hens to move their broods to the gravel roadsides to dry off before feeding, allowing them to be counted easily.

Routes are driven over the same roads each year so that the information is comparable with previous years. According to Bogenschutz, this survey is the best indicator of what hunters will find this fall when they take to the field.

"Historically, when the roadside counts are compared to the small game harvest figures, they parallel each other nicely," Bogenschutz said. However, since the survey depends on heavy dew for consistent results, hot dry weather in August can affect the results. "The birds do not come to the roads as consistently in dry years, which makes the counts more variable."

Final results of the survey will be compiled in late August and will be released in early September. Small game hunters interested in this year's counts can log on to

www.iowadnr.com and receive an e-mail notification when the roadside results have been posted.

For more information, contact Bogenschutz at 515-432-2823.

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PUBLIC INVITED TO OSPREY RELEASE AT FIVE SITES

Ospreys nesting at Lake Macbride produced two young in 2005. Jodeane Cancilla, director of Macbride Raptor Project, banded the young birds on July 7. Both adults were released from Iowa sites as young fledglings.

A second nesting pair at Lake Macbride was unsuccessful. "Ospreys have a tendency to take a year or so to perfect nesting techniques and successfully fledge young," said Pat Schlarbaum, with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources wildlife diversity program. Nesting activity by pairs of Iowa-released ospreys have also been reported this year at Saylorville Reservoir, Don Williams Lake, and near Hartman Reserve Nature Center. Iowa released ospreys have a distinctive purple band on their left leg. Anyone seeing an osprey with a purple band is encouraged to report these birds to Wildlife Diversity staff at 515-432-2823.

Efforts are under way this week to place 24 ospreys from Minnesota and Wisconsin and the public is invited to each of these events. Young 42-day-old ospreys are relocated from northern nests and placed in release structures at each site. Volunteers feed the young for about two weeks as they attain full flight feathers. The fledglings are released in such a manner they imprint on their new surroundings. After three or four years, surviving ospreys should return to Iowa as adults and begin nesting.

Emily Herring with the Boone County Conservation Board will oversee the placement of five Minnesota ospreys at Don Williams Lake at 9 a.m. on July 12. They can be reached at 515-353-4237. Dennis Goemaat, assistant director for Linn County Conservation Board, reports that five Wisconsin ospreys will be placed at their site at Wickiup Hill Nature Center at 9:30 a.m., July 14. Their number is 319-398-3505. Amber Shinn, naturalist with Black Hawk County Conservation Board reports they will place four ospreys at their release site at Hartman Reserve Nature Center at 9:00 a.m. on July 14.

Marla Mertz, naturalist with Marion County Conservation Board and DNR Park Ranger, Larry Zirkelbach, will place five ospreys at their site near Elk Rock State Park on July 16 at 9:30 a.m. Mertz can be reached at 641-891-8226 or Zirkelbach at 641-842-6008.

Also, a Clear Lake group, coordinated by Nelson Crabb, will place five ospreys at their site at Iowa Regular Baptist Camp on north shore of Clear Lake at 2 p.m., July 16. However, in consideration of the ospreys' welfare, if heat index advisories are included with weather forecast for that day, birds will be placed at 9:30 a.m. instead. Contact Nelson at 641-357-3839 for further details. "Osprey placements are wonderful opportunities to see these beautifully intense raptors up close and learn about their biological significance of clean water efforts," Schlarbaum said.

For more information, contact Schlarbaum at 515-432-2823.

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[Hold until July 14]

PEREGRINES-WILD AGAIN

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

The protest was rather hoarse from the black and white bundle of down and feathers. The peregrine falcon chick might have been tired of protesting being plucked from her nest box. Or she might have recognized the overwhelming odds as humans crowded around her in a makeshift processing lab, in the hallway. On the table, in the Ottumwa Generating Station, jointly owned by Alliant and Mid-American Energy, she and her sibling were about to get the once over; watched, poked, prodded and banded by intruding humans.

"They are extremely well-fed, robust and healthy. They have an excellent chance of survival," pronounced Lowell Washburn, chair of the Iowa Peregrine Falcon Recovery Committee. Washburn and volunteers attached aluminum bands to each falcon's legs. The identifying bands stay with them for life; letting humans track their history, as they roam the flyways of North and South America. "We also draw blood so we can monitor the growing population for the potential presence of hazardous chemicals or heavy metals. So far, Iowa birds have been remarkably clean," reassured Washburn.

The 860 gram (about 1/3 pound) female and her smaller brother began raising a ruckus as the 20-minute ordeal ended. Packed back into a portable kennel, they headed back to the nest; halfway up the side of a 600-foot stack, at the generating station at Chillicothe, just upstream from Ottumwa in Wapello County. Within a few days, they will test their wings with short flights. By mid-August they will be hunting their own food. Come fall, they will be ready to roam; underscoring their Latin name; *Falco peregrinus*, or wandering falcon.

The raptors routinely migrate between North and South America, particularly when young. As they mature and begin mating, they will hopefully return to their home territory. After 16 years of urban hacksites, which gave way to more wild bluff tops and rural power plants, seven nesting pairs are on active nests in 2005. Not bad for a bird still

on the Iowa endangered species list and just delisted in 1999 from the endangered list nationwide.

However, a milestone reached this year caps that Iowa comeback. “We are finally banding second generation peregrines; wild birds produced by wild birds. That’s a significant milestone,” emphasizes Washburn. “The recovery is certainly one of the most exciting in the annals of conservation history.”

Judi Johnson won’t disagree. The 30-year plant employee is a twice-a-day falcon watcher. “I go walking (on breaks) in the same place every day. The female is usually sticking her head out of the next box. The male is usually on the west side (of the stack). Occasionally, they’re out flying around. Johnson watches the falcons hunt, and harass the much larger vultures that use the facility as a high-altitude hangout. “It will be more fun with the babies flying. It’s just kind of exciting.”

The role of industry in the falcon comeback is vital, and a little ironic, given the demise of falcon numbers a few decades ago. “Industry funded release programs continue to bring the population back,” proclaims Washburn. “Industry plays a larger role in the recovery; with their assistance, and with city skyscrapers, office buildings, bridges and rural power company smokestacks being utilized for nest sites. It is a unique story.”

A story that looks to be going strong for years to come.

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[electronic photos available]

IOWA FALCON NUMBERS SOAR

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

When it comes to love, ocean liners, or business ventures --- the term "on the rocks" is anything but positive. But apply that same phrase to one of Iowa's rarest bird species, and the words take on a completely different meaning.

Currently, among the rugged limestone blufflands of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, wild free-flying peregrine falcons are once again returning to nest and rear their young on the cliff face ledges of the upper Mississippi River. It's a clear-cut case of 'Hawks on the Rocks,' and in this context it is a very good thing. The outlook becomes even brighter when you consider the additional peregrine pairs that are nesting on the artificial rock walls of power company smokestacks, metro bridge supports, and big city office buildings.

Historically, peregrine falcons were common summer residents along the picturesque cliffscapes that border the Mississippi River and its northeast Iowa

tributaries. Following World War II, however, things changed rapidly as the birds were first decimated, and then eradicated altogether. Blanket application of DDT pesticide proved to be the culprit. Better living through chemistry had fouled the environment, and top of the food chain predators like the peregrine were paying the price.

The fact that these dynamic, winged hunters have returned to reclaim ancient territories is no accident. Modern-day populations are the direct result of an all out recovery effort involving an incredible network of unpaid volunteers, college students, and wildlife professionals, who secured and released captive reared young falcons into the wild, and then nurtured those fledglings as they learned to fly, hunt, and ultimately achieve independence. Survivors of those releases became the founders of the modern-day, wild populations that Americans now enjoy.

This spring, there were 11 active peregrine territories in Iowa, which resulted in seven successful nesting attempts, and produced 20 young. That's a new record and is more than double the number of baby peregrines being produced just two or three years ago. Because some of the state's most desirable cliff ledges are located along the more remote stretches of the upper Mississippi there could easily be additional nesting peregrines that have escaped human detection.

Much of the credit for this now successful conservation endeavor can be directly attributed to members of the Iowa Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team --- a group of unpaid volunteer raptor enthusiasts from across the state. During a 5-year period, the Recovery Team was solely responsible for the release of 105 fledgling peregrines in Iowa. The group received around \$40,000 from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and through fund raising efforts, generated more than \$90,000 from private sector sources.

Iowa's final release of captive-reared, baby falcons occurred during the summer of 2000. Five years later, a steadily growing population continues to set a new production record with each passing summer. Better yet, wild offspring are now being produced by totally wild [instead of captive-reared] parents. With this event, the planet's most dynamic bird species has successfully passed a new and critical milestone in the recovery effort.

Modern-day peregrines appear to have regained a firm foothold on their historic range. It now becomes our collective responsibility to make certain that this incredible native bird species doesn't vanish for a second time.

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HOLIDAY WEEKEND BOATING PROJECT AIMS TO KEEP RIVER SAFE

Officers with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Enforcement conducted a boater safety inspection on the Mississippi River near Sabula, Iowa and Savanna, Ill., on July 2.

“We wanted to get the public’s attention and inform them of the need for safe boating practices. I think we did that on Saturday,” said Iowa conservation officer Burton Walters, from Jackson County.

Ten officers on four patrol boats and one personal watercraft spent four hours inspecting 114 boats and checking 24 fishing licenses. The effort resulted in two boat operators being arrested and charged with boating while intoxicated; seven boaters cited for not having life jackets; one citation for having an overloaded boat and three boat registration violations. Three people were cited for having bass shorter than the legal length limit, one boater was cited for speed and distance violations, one for possession of fireworks in the refuge and five for possession of alcohol under the legal age. Officers warned 15 other boat operators for faulty equipment and improper registrations.

“It is important that we keep someone from operating a boat while intoxicated and we make sure that boaters have the proper amount of life jackets on board a boat,” Walters said. “It is this kind of enforcement practices that may keep people from drowning.”

Walters said several of the officers involved in the project had positive feedback from the public. “We are not out here to keep people from having fun, just the opposite, we are here to see that all boaters have an enjoyable safe time on the river without experiencing what could be the worst day of their lives,” he said.

For more information, contact Burton Walters, Conservation Officer, at 563-543-5259.

IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of July 12, 2005

www.iowadnr.com

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is fair and sorting is required for keeper sized fish. Anglers are catching fish using night crawlers and leeches in 18 to 22 feet of water. Anglers are also catching fish trolling crankbaits in the basin. A few yellow perch are being caught on the North Grade. There are a few smallmouth bass being caught using leeches under a slip bobber over the rock piles.

West Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Bluegills are being caught from the deep weed lines in 20 to 25 feet of water using jigs tipped with small leeches or worms.

Willow Creek (Osceola): Largemouth bass fishing is fair using top-water baits around the weed edges. Dusk is prime time.

Winterfeld Pit (Sioux): Bluegill fishing is good in 15 to 22 feet of water near the structure fishing worms and minnows. Channel catfish are also being caught using minnows fished near the bottom.

Lake Pahoja (Lyon): Anglers are catching panfish around brush piles using a small worm with a jigging motion, or under a bobber. Crappies are 6 to 8 inches and bluegills are 5 to 7 inches.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Channel catfish are good using stink bait and chicken liver. Bullheads are fair to good throughout the lake. Anglers are catching crappies by vertically jigging under the public docks.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Channel catfish are fair to good using live bait. A few walleyes are being caught trolling crankbaits during the day.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Fishing has slowed since the heavy rains changed the water clarity. Bluegills can be found throughout the lake. Bass are hitting on a variety of lures. A few walleye have been caught along the weed lines with crankbaits at sunset.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers, minnows and chicken liver. Bullheads are hitting on night crawlers fished on the bottom.

Beeds Lake (Franklin): Crappies are being caught by trolling or drift fishing with small jigs and minnows. Most fish are 7 to 10 inches. Bluegills are being caught around the shoreline on small pieces of night crawler. Largemouth bass are hitting on spinner baits fished along the shoreline.

Little Wall Lake (Hamilton): Channel catfish are hitting on stink bait.

Briggs Woods Lake (Hamilton): Largemouth bass are being caught on spinner baits and rubber worms. Crappies are hitting on small jigs and minnows.

Crystal Lake (Hancock): Channel catfish are hitting on stink bait.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Three Mile (Union): Channel catfish can be caught using dip baits, night crawlers or crayfish. Bluegill and crappie can be caught by drift fishing through open areas, and over the top of the brush piles.

Green Valley (Union): Some nice sized channel catfish are biting on liver or dip baits

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Channel catfish can be caught using liver or dip baits in the riprap areas.

Little River (Decatur): Channel catfish can be caught from shore using liver or dip baits

Viking (Montgomery): Crappie fishing is fair in 6 to 8 feet of water using a small jig or minnow and bobber around structure. Largemouth bass fishing is also good using plastic baits with a slow retrieve. Channel catfish are being caught using liver and stink bait in early morning and late evening.

Cold Springs (Cass): Channel catfish are being caught using liver. Crappie fishing is fair around sunken trees. Bluegills are being caught with small jigs around structure.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish is good using stink bait and liver on Boy Scout Island and the north shore. Walleye fishing has slowed, but a few are being caught along west shore in evening drifting night crawlers.

Orient (Adair): Fishing is slow for 7 to 8-inch crappies drifting jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are being caught using liver early in morning. Bluegills are slow but are still being caught drifting night crawlers.

Mormon Trail (Adair): Channel catfishing is good using liver or minnows in the evening. A few bluegills are being caught drifting jigs tipped with worms. Largemouth bass are being caught around structure.

Greenfield (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair drifting a jig tipped with night crawler. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using spinner baits. Catfish is fair using liver.

Littlefield (Audubon): Bluegill fishing is fair using small jigs tipped with worms. Crappie fishing has slowed but some are still being caught using minnows and bobbers. Most crappies are 10 inches in length. Channel catfishing is good using prepared dip bait and liver close to shore in the rocks.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Crappies and bluegill are slow, but can still be caught along rocky shorelines. Channel catfish are being caught in evening using dead minnows or liver. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using crankbaits and plastic worms.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Walleye fishing is slow, jigging minnows around brush piles and trolling crankbaits in evening in 6 to 8 feet of water. Bluegills are still being caught around structure using night crawlers. Channel catfish are being caught using liver.

Willow (Harrison): Bluegills are being caught on worms. Channel catfish fishing is good in the evening using liver.

Don Williams (Boone): Channel catfish fishing has been excellent using chicken liver and night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing has been good. Bluegill fishing has been fair on worms. Anglers reported catching some 10 to 14-inch crappies, although fishing is generally slow.

Hickory Grove (Story): Channel catfish fishing has good using chicken liver. Bluegill fishing is fair with worms/bobbers the best combination. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair with larger fish caught in deeper water.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Channel catfish fishing has been good using worms and/or chicken liver. Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms. Crappie fishing has been fair using jigs and minnows in deeper water. Largemouth bass have been biting on top-water lures.

Big Creek (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been good with worms. Anglers also report catching a number of walleyes below the 15-inch minimum length limit. Channel catfish fishing has been good at night with some nice-sized fish in the lake.

Easter Lake (Polk): Channel catfish fishing has been fair using worms and/or chicken liver. Fishing has been fair for 6 to 8-inch crappies using jigs. Bluegill fishing has been good using worms and bobbers. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair using plastic worms and top-water lures.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): White bass fishing has been fair in various areas. Channel catfish fishing has been good using stink baits at the outlet from Big Creek Lake, primarily late evening or night.

Below Saylorville Dam (Polk): White bass fishing has been good using jigs and/or minnows. Anglers are catching some walleyes. Fishing has been good along Cottonwood access downstream from the dam. Channel catfish fishing has been good in the slower water and has been good to excellent in the backwater ponds.

Des Moines River (Polk): White bass fishing has been fair to good in the Des Moines River below Scott Street and Center Street dams.

Lake Red Rock (Marion): Channel catfish fishing has been good using traditional baits in the upper portions of the reservoir. Crappie fishing has been slow, although some nice sized fish are being taken with jigs/minnows. White bass fishing has been slow, although should pick up with the warmer weather.

Below Lake Red Rock (Marion): Anglers report white bass fishing has been good using jigs and jigs tipped with a minnow in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has been good.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Channel catfish fishing has been good near the outlet using traditional baits. Crappie fishing has been fair near the outlet using jig and minnow combinations.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Channel catfish fishing has been good using chicken liver, night crawlers and stink bait. Largemouth bass fishing has been excellent using plastic worms and spinner lures, although most have been sub-legal. Bluegill fishing has been good with most fish taken on worms and waxworks.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Channel catfish fishing has been fair using chicken liver and stink bait. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using plastic worms and spinner lures. Bluegill fishing has been good using worms and bobbers around structure.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: Fishing on the Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19 has been fair. At the gauging station on **Pool 16** (near Muscatine) the water

temperature is 83 degrees and the river pool stage is 11.55 feet and is expected to drop over the next several days. In **Pools 16 to 19**, anglers are still having success catching channel catfish throughout the river, near the mouths of tributary streams and rivers and near drift piles. Channel catfish have been biting on various baits – leeches, worms, green worms, stink bait, and shad guts being the baits of choice. Flathead fishing has been fair to good. Try using live baits such as larger chubs and suckers for flatheads. Flatheads are typically found around drift piles, rocks and deeper holes and are most active in the evening or at night. Bluegill fishing continues to be fair in all accessible backwaters on red worms, worms, wax worms, and small jigs and bobber rigs. Walleye and sauger fishing has been slow.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Wildlife personnel will be lowering the water level this week to promote growth of the vegetation for waterfowl. Water levels will not be raised until September.

Lake Darling (Washington): Catfish fishing is good in the evenings and early mornings on chicken liver.

Lake Geode (Henry): Catfishing is picking up off the deeper ledges. Anglers are still picking up a few bluegills trolling by over the ledges and the edges of the weed beds.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Bluegills are suspended in 10 to 12 feet of water. Ice fishing jigs and wax worms are catching them. Catfishing has been good to excellent on chicken liver.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Channel catfish have been biting on cut bait and stink bait around the Bridgeview area. Walleyes have been hitting on crankbaits and spinner rigs being trolled. Crappies are being caught around structure in deeper water. White bass have been hitting on jigs.

Lake Hawthorn (Mahaska): Largemouth bass have been hitting top-water lures fished early and late in the day. Channel catfish have been biting on cut bait.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs. Crappies have been hitting on minnows in deeper water areas. Largemouth bass have been hitting top-water lures early in the mornings.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Channel catfish have been biting on cut bait and liver. Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass have been caught on a variety of artificial lures.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Crappie fishing is good drifting minnows on jigs in the open lake. Crappies are suspended. Channel catfish angling is good on a variety of baits.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Lots of channel catfish are being caught, especially the one pound size, on numerous baits including night crawlers, stink bait and cut bait. Some bluegills and crappies are also being caught on small jigs and wax worms.

Kent Park (Johnson): Bluegills are being taken from the deeper structure on worms. Catfish can be caught on a variety of live and dead bait. Bass are being caught on a number of artificial lures.

Hannan Lake (Benton): Once again, catfish are biting on night crawlers and liver. Bluegills have been caught on wax worms in 4 to 5 feet of water, while numerous small bass can be caught on a variety of artificial lures as well as on worms.

Union Grove (Tama): Crappies continue to be caught by drifting or slowly trolling the main lake area.

Skunk River (Keokuk and Washington): The water level is still dropping and is almost to the normal summer level. As the river stabilizes, fishing should improve.

Cedar River: Channel catfish have been willing to bite on numerous dead baits including dead shad, liver and stink bait.

Wapsipinicon River: Try liver along with many other smelly baits for good results with channel catfish.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: Water level in the tailwater at Lansing is 8.75 feet and dropping. Guttenberg, on Monday morning, was at 6.61 feet and dropping. Water transparency is clear and the water temperature is 80 degrees at both Guttenberg and Bellevue. Many species of fish are being caught in the lower water levels.

Walleye and sauger fishing is good in **Pools 9 to 11** for anglers trolling crankbaits, willow cats (madtoms) or a leech along the wing dams and side sloughs. Better walleye and sauger fishing can be found in Blackhawk Park (**Pool 9**) and the Lynxville area (**Pool 10**). A few walleyes are being caught off the wing dams in **Pools 12 to 15**. Fish the wing dams tight to shore (areas with less current) using crankbaits, night crawlers or leeches on a 3-way. Bluegills are being taken in areas just outside of the main current in shallow water in **Pools 9 to 11**. A small night crawler on a simple hook has been working well. As water levels continue to recede, bluegills will move into rocky areas with some current. Try fishing for bluegills in the Sny Magill area in **Pool 10**—especially in Norwegian and Methodist lakes. Fishing for freshwater drum has been good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Use a night crawler and fish for freshwater drum in the side sloughs, wing dams, tailwater areas and sand flats off the main channel. Channel catfishing has been good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Anglers are using stink bait, chicken liver and cut bait fished around fallen trees in the side sloughs and along the main channel borders. Start by fishing tight to shore and gradually move out until you locate fish. Largemouth bass fishing is good to excellent in **Pools 9 to 15**. Anglers are using a variety of traditional bass lures including soft plastics, spinner baits and top-water lures fished around woody structure or vegetation. Crankbaits fished along rocky shorelines also work well. Largemouth can be found in the backwaters and along the main channel border in areas with little or no current. Bass like to hide in woody cover, so make sure to spend some time around fallen trees and log piles. Smallmouth bass like current areas so try using black twister jigs or a variety of crankbaits fished along any rocky shoreline that has some flowing current. Fair to good white bass fishing is being reported in **Pools 9 to 15** with many 9 to 12-inch fish being caught. Fish the tailwater areas below the dams or the wing dams using small spinner baits or jigs thrown into the current. A small shad rap crankbait can also be effective.

Cedar River (Floyd): The Cedar River is clearing and walleyes are biting.

Maquoketa River (Delaware and Jones): Fishing for channel catfish is good using chicken liver around snags.

Turkey River (Fayette): Smallmouth bass are hitting crankbaits.

Upper Iowa River: Fishing is slow due to an algae bloom.

Wapsipinicon River (Buchanan): Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and night crawlers. Anglers are catching a few walleye on a jig and night crawler combination.

Casey Lake (Tama): Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver as well as a variety of other baits fished during the evening hours. Anglers are also catching and releasing a lot of 12 to 16-inch largemouth bass on crankbaits and rubber worms. There is an 18-inch length limit for bass in Casey Lake.

Big Woods and George Wyth lakes (Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and stink baits.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Bluegill fishing is good on a piece of night crawler under a bobber.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): A few bluegills are being caught on a piece of night crawler.

Trout Streams: During July and August when stocking on the marginal coldwater streams is postponed until cooler September temperatures, streams such as **Grannis Creek** and **Glovers Creek** receive additional stocked trout. During July and August, both Grannis and Glovers are stocked with catchable-size trout twice per week with one stocking *announced* and one weekly stocking *unannounced*. Both Grannis and Glovers are great places to bring the whole family. Glovers Creek is located in Echo Valley Park near West Union. As you are entering Echo Valley Park, take the road to the left and follow it to the bottom of the hill. (Note: if you go to the right it will take you to Otter Creek and camping sites). You can fish either upstream or downstream from the parking area on Glovers. The area upstream of the parking lot is newly acquired public land. In addition to trout fishing, there are numerous things to discover at Echo Valley including the narrow backbone ridge which separates the two streams, the Jensen hiking trail, and camping.

Grannis Creek is located west of Wadena. The area to fish includes two separate public areas that are connected by a large tract of privately owned land, which is open to public fishing. Public fishing is also allowed above the upper public area where it is posted for public use. Some streambank stabilization work has been conducted on the upper public area. Stream habitat work on the private land has resulted in excellent areas to fish throughout the entire stretch. The private land is most easily accessible from the lower public area. Please respect both the public and private land by not leaving your trash behind!

The river level on the **Turkey River** at Big Spring has dropped again to wadeable conditions. As summer temperatures once again rise, trout will concentrate below the coldwater spring outlets adjacent to the hatchery. For current trout stocking information, contact the Iowa DNR at 563-927-5736 or go on-line at www.iowadnr.com and check the fisheries web pages to view the 2005 stocking calendar.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

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